

## NEWS CLIPPING

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# Early Start to English

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**T**O THRIVE in the global economic landscape, it is important for Malaysians to have a strong foundation and a good command of English.

Understanding that such a foundation needs to be built at an early stage, the Guinness Anchor Berhad (GAB) Foundation has been organising English programmes for vernacular primary school pupils since 2008.

Kickstarting with a 21-day English camp for Tamil school pupils, the programme now includes a 12-day intensive English course and holiday camps during the mid-year and year-end school holidays, where pupils can participate in English learning activities.

Fully dedicated to Tamil schools in the past, the programme was extended to include three Chinese primary schools in Tanjong Malim last year, reaching out to over 100 pupils.

GAB Foundation director Renuka Indrarajah said, "The main objective of this programme is to help students improve their command of spoken and written English by providing them with supplementary lessons over and above their regular curriculum."

She added that the foundation hoped to cultivate the love for the language by having the students learn English in a fun way through interactive activities such as singing, role-playing and even arts and craft.

"We hope that this programme will give students the opportunity to gain the confidence and skills they need to communicate effectively in English, as we believe that their competence in the language would give them a competitive edge and help open doors in the future."

The lesson plans, which are specially developed by a child development specialist and a lecturer in early childhood development, are done in line with the national school syllabus.

"We are committed to making the programme as effective as possible, and as such, we also conduct a qualitative assessment through field observations.

This helps us evaluate the effectiveness of the lesson plans, as well as measure the level of interaction and participation from the students."

To date, GAB has contributed close to RM200 mil to various education initiatives and programmes in Malaysia, of which approximately RM1.85 mil has been channelled through the Foundation.



Tamil school pupils engaged in an English language learning activity with their teachers